



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (1/1/2026)

Mat control, coaches behavior, and safety concerns continue to be troubling issues within our organization. The following measures will be implemented and/or reinforced from this date forward:

- All mats within the competition footprint **MUST** be encircled with a rope or otherwise suitable barrier. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this requirement
 - Failure to comply with this will result in a fine, not to exceed \$250, levied against the host club
 - Additionally, competition will be suspended until which time the tournament is compliant
- Coaches (maximum of 2 per wrestler) are permitted within the barrier. Once matches are completed, coaches must swiftly make their way behind the barrier
- Wrestlers are permitted within the barrier only **IMMEDIATELY** prior to competition. Warm-up and other mat preparation shall take place outside of the barrier. Once matches are complete, wrestlers must swiftly make their way behind the barrier
- Exceptions to this rule include **ONLY** official tournament personnel (referees, tournament workers, tournament officials, trainers, and other individuals given direct permission from the tournament organizers)
- At no time are parents, siblings, friends, wrestling teammates, photographers, or videographers permitted within the barrier

These rules will be strictly enforced by the referees and/or other official event personnel. These are simple rules. Second chances will not be offered.

Failure to comply diligently with these mat control and safety protocols and rules may result in punitive actions, up to and including immediate expulsion from the event, as well as review by the compliance committee for extended suspensions. This includes coaches, parents, and wrestlers. **PLEASE DO NOT TEST THIS.**

Please understand, these rules are directed at creating safe conditions for the competitors, achieving maximum mat control (allowing referees and coaches to do their jobs), as well as insuring that the event runs as smoothly, quickly, and efficiently as possible. **It is beyond time that we “permanently fix” these problems. Your cooperation is NEEDED and much appreciated.**